GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2002
RECRUITMENT IN ARMED FORCES
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `vacancies in officer cadre stabilised, says Army` appearing in the Hindu dated July 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of persons recruited in officer cadre in the Armed Forces since the inception of `An Image Projection Campaign` of the Armed Forces, State-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies remained unfilled as on date alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY GIVEN TO IN PARTS (b) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION N(FOR 1.8.2002

Induction of officers into the Army is open to all eligible candidates. No State-wise quota is earmarked. The recruitment figures since the inception of Image Projection Campaign in 1998 are given below:-

1998	1999	2000	2001
1947	1782	2335	1473

While the Image Projection Campaign was specific to the Army, extensive publicity and recruitment drives have also been undertaken by the Air Force and the Navy.

The present shortage of officers in the Army, Air Force and Navy is given below:-

Army	Air Force	Navy
12554	686	914

Some of the factors which could be attributed to the shortfall in the strength of officers are the following:-

(i) Although a good number of candidates pass through the written part of the examination, many get rejected through Service

Selection Board (SSB) which is mandatory for selection of officers, as they are not able to meet the requisite selection and medical criterion.

(ii) A relatively risky and hazardous career in the armed forces compared to other options available, in a fast developing and modern society, also has a significant impact on the preference of potential aspirants.
In addition to the Image Projection Campaign by the Army with special focus on eligible Army aspirants, the valiant image of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and the print media. The Directorate of Public Relations of Ministry of Defence, regularly interacts with the media persons while giving Defence related information and endeavours to ensure positive publicity of the same. Regular coverage of defence related events in the print and electronic media go a long way in creating awareness among the masses and motivating the youth to join the armed forces.

Seminars, lectures and presentations are also organised by the Recruiting Offices at schools and colleges in order to motivate the youth to join the armed forces.

Besides, the training capacity of the Army has been increased resulting in increased intake of about 400 officers per annum.